

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

EXHIBIT 2
DATE 8/13/07
SB 85



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To: Rep. Diane Rice, Chair
House Judiciary Committee

From: Shirley K. Brown, M.A., J.D.
Administrator, Child and Family Services Division

Re: SB 85

Date: March 9, 2007

During the hearing on SB 85, Rep. McGillvray asked that I provide the Committee with the data incorporated into my testimony as an informational witness. That data is as follows:

1. The definition of child abuse or neglect includes, among other things, exposing a child to the criminal distribution of dangerous drugs, the criminal production or manufacture of dangerous drugs, or the operation of an unlawful clandestine laboratory.
 - For SFY06, child protective services investigatory workers substantiated reports of this category of child abuse/neglect involving 56 children.
 - 23 of the children were below the age of 6
 - 38 of the children were below the age of 10
2. The Child and Family Services Division has been tracking parental drug involvement of the children in foster care since January 1, 2006. During that time, the numbers have been very consistent.
 - Of the children in out-of-home care on November 20, 2006, parents of 2/3 of the children in foster care had drug/alcohol involvement.
 - 49.5% of the 2/3 had involvement with meth
 - 28.10 of the 2/3 had involvement with marijuana
 - 13.4% of the 2/3 had involvement with prescription drugs

- When looking at the total number of children in foster care on November 20, 2006:
 - 32.6% of the parents had involvement with meth
 - 18.5% of the parents had involvement with marijuana
 - 8.8% of the parents had involvement with prescription drugs
- 3. Of the children who entered out-of-home care during the calendar year 2006 (the period for which the Division has been tracking parental drug involvement): 38.1% of the children had parents involved with meth and the average age of those children is 7 years of age.
- 4. As of January 9, 2007, 83 babies/children in foster care were placed because they were drug-impacted infants.
 - Drug-impacted means the babies tested positive for dangerous drugs at birth
 - This number constitutes almost 5% of the children in care on that date
 - 78 were placed directly from the hospital
 - 5 went home and were placed within a short period of time
 - Based upon information received from field supervisors, approximately 30% to 40% of the 83 babies/children had siblings in foster care at the time the baby was placed in foster care.

I hope this information is helpful to the Committee members when taking executive action of SB 85.

C: Sen. Trudi Schmidt